

I WILL NOT BE MOVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I enjoy the preeminent privilege of speaking from the well of the House of Representatives. I am so honored to have this great opportunity.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge that, yesterday, a historic event took place right here in this House. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, 58 persons voted to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America. Mr. Speaker, that is 57 more than a good many people anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, there are some who would have the event be nothing more than a footnote in history. Some would just have it be a nonevent. But, Mr. Speaker, it won't happen. It will not be just a footnote. It won't be a nonevent.

Mr. Speaker, this event will be looked upon by scholars as they look through time to understand what happened at this time. They will ponder it and find that those 58 persons were the first 58 to vote to impeach Donald John Trump—the first 58, not the last 58, Mr. Speaker. There will be another opportunity for us to remove Donald John Trump from the Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, when I took my vote yesterday, I voted for a lot of constituents. I just want to single out a few.

I voted for the man who stood on a corner under a bridge, cup in his hand, asking for help. When he saw me, he had a big smile on his face. I voted for him because his words to me, paraphrasing, were: I am so proud of what you are doing with that impeachment. This is a man standing in the streets of life, who sleeps in the streets of life.

I voted for the person who was on a serving line at a cafeteria—I eat in cafeterias quite regularly—who said: Right on; keep on.

I voted for the woman who saw me at church and said: AL GREEN, you are a troublemaker, but don't you stop until you impeach Trump.

Mr. Speaker, I voted for people who would never have this preeminent privilege that they have accorded me to stand here in the well of the Congress. I am not going to let them down, Mr. Speaker.

This was round one. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I don't give out, I don't give up, and I don't give in. I know that I am on the right side of righteousness, and I am going to stay there.

Here is where I stand. I will not be moved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING ALICE FUQUA MCCALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank an exceptional North Carolinian, Alice Fuqua McCall, who has spent nearly three decades working for Members of Congress.

Alice first began her career with Senator Jesse Helms back in 1986 as a special assistant. Alice was fresh out of college when she came to Washington, D.C., and was immediately hired to work for the Senator on Capitol Hill.

It was during this time, Mr. Speaker, that I first met Alice. We both served on Senator Helms' staff together, bringing conservative North Carolina values—and, in Alice's case, Southern charm—to our work in the Senate.

When Senator Helms retired in 2003, Senator Elizabeth Dole welcomed Alice to her staff in Raleigh to handle constituent services. Mr. Speaker, Alice spent 6 years working for Senator Dole in that role. During that time, she became well known in North Carolina for her personal attention to casework. She helped countless constituents navigate the many problems that arise when dealing with Federal agencies.

Following her time working in the Senate, Alice moved over to the House side, serving on the staff of former Congresswoman Renee Ellmers as her constituent services director. Alice's caring and compassionate demeanor made her a logical choice for that position.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to serve as a Member of Congress, I couldn't think of anyone better suited to serve as my district director than Alice McCall. Her devotion to her work and the people of North Carolina made her an excellent hire.

This past summer, Alice retired from her Federal service after almost 5 years on my staff. The people of North Carolina were lucky to have her as an advocate. My office certainly misses her and will not be the same without her.

I will always think of Alice as a colleague and good friend from our time together with Senator Helms, and I wish her and her family well as she enjoys her much-deserved retirement.

STOP THE BLEED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, when I say the term "CPR," everybody in the room knows what I am talking about; but when I mention "Stop the Bleed," few of us know what it is.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to take part in a Stop the Bleed training program offered for my good friends and fellow physicians at the American College of Surgeons. This simple training teaches individuals how to treat bleeding injuries and help save a life.

Every year, almost 200,000 Americans die from traumatic injuries sustained as a result of events, including vehicle

crashes, falls, industrial and farm accidents, shootings, and natural disasters. The most common preventable cause of these deaths is losing too much blood in the minutes before trained responders can arrive. This is something we need to change.

The ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and the ability to intervene effectively can save a life. Whether the injury was the result of a car crash, home accident, or farm accident, one person who is there at the right time and has the right skills can make all the difference.

Just like CPR training, a civilian familiar with basic bleeding control techniques is better equipped to save a life. The effort to make this training available to the public is driven by the goal to reduce or eliminate preventable death from bleeding.

The American College of Surgeons, working in partnership with many other organizations, has now made the training needed to address such incidents available to the public. Through nationwide advocacy efforts, the American College of Surgeons will work to ensure that all people have access to training opportunities.

I would implore and encourage folks like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, and other organizations that teach CPR to add this very simple course on Stop the Bleed to that training course program. It is a very simple concept of putting pressure where the bleeding is occurring or how to make a quick tourniquet out of a belt or a piece of clothing.

Today, I also take this opportunity to encourage fellow congressional Members of Congress to get trained in Stop the Bleed.

□ 1045

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND TAX BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we should not shut down the government of the United States. Democrats do not want government to shut down. It is, however, not in our hands. It takes a majority to pass any bill in this House: 218 votes. Our Republican colleagues have over 240 votes. We have 193. So it is not in our hands, Mr. Speaker.

The Republican Party has been given the responsibility and the duty to enact legislation to ensure the proper functioning of government. As the governing party, they can pass whatever they want to pass on this floor. Indeed, as the governing party, they have a responsibility to use their votes to keep the government running. They control the House, they control the Senate, and they control the White House. All the levers of power of legislating are in their hands.

But, we are here, Mr. Speaker, on the verge of a shutdown because of a familiar pattern where Republicans cannot

unite as a party. They cannot agree among themselves on spending priorities. This has happened again and again and again. In fact, each time Congress has successfully enacted a funding bill since the majority took the majority in 2011, they had to have Democratic votes to pass that legislation every single time.

When we passed the continuing resolution in September, just about 3 months ago, we did so because Republican leaders asked for more time to work on the priorities that confront this country and, responsibly, keeping government working. They had 3 months to do so, yet here we are with 1 day remaining and nothing to show for it.

Instead, they have spent the past 3 months—on priorities that I will outline in just a minute—working on a tax bill that is reckless, deeply unpopular, and harmful to the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans and the economic well-being of our country that I call a death tax because it will explode the debt of the United States; a bill that would raise taxes on 78 million middle class households and kick 13 million Americans off of their health insurance coverage; a bill that would increase, as I have said, the deficit by \$1.5 trillion—indeed, much more than that, because we have to pay interest on the money that we are going to borrow to do the tax cut, while we fail to pay our bills—a bill that would trigger an automatic cut of Medicare by \$25 billion next year; a bill premised on a falsehood that tax cuts magically pay for themselves.

That is what the past 3 months have been wasted on, Mr. Speaker.

Not a single appropriations bill has been enacted by this Congress, not a single one. There are 12. They control the House, they control the Senate, and they control the Presidency.

Now our Republican colleagues, Mr. Speaker, are asking for 2 more weeks. Two more weeks, they say. Republicans are asking us for 2 more weeks because they claim they haven't had time to write a funding bill they can pass.

Ninety days. Every Democrat voted for what I call the “no drama” CR in September. Ninety Republicans voted “no” on an agreement we had to use the next 90 days to address the priorities of America. But 90 Republicans voted “no.”

They have had time to write and rewrite and rewrite and rewrite again a tax bill that advantages the wealthiest in America at the expense of the majority of Americans. That, Mr. Speaker, is how they have spent their time these past 3 months.

Write a funding bill to avert a shutdown?

No.

Reach an agreement that is responsible to fund the priorities of America?

No.

Write a tax bill that kicks millions off of their health coverage and raises

taxes on millions more. That is what they have done for 90 days. That is what they chose to do.

Two more weeks?

If they want 2 more weeks, they have 240 votes to give themselves more time. But I am certainly not going to vote to give them 2 more weeks simply to work on the tax bill, which they have pledged to pass by Christmas.

However, if they passed it a year from now, it would have the same impact on America's taxes. The critical they have ignored and delayed. The political has been their sole focus.

I say to my Republican friends, Mr. Speaker: You won control of the government. Govern, govern. Be responsible. Focus on that which is critically important to the American people. Don't say you haven't had time to do the most important job you had. You had time. We voted—every one of us—to give you 90 days, to work either in a partisan sense, as you have done so much of the year; or in a bipartisan sense, which was much more positive and would have been much more productive.

There is a to-do list, Mr. Speaker, of critical legislative items that this House has to complete before the end of the year. It is a long and compelling list. Six of them have hard deadlines and must be done before we leave for the end of the year. For 90 days we didn't do them.

None of the six is a surprise either. Neither are any of the others that the American people expect us to do by the end of the year as well.

The majority has had months to work on bringing legislation to the floor on each one of them—months—yet here we are, in December, pushed up against the wall of a funding deadline.

And Republicans want 2 more weeks so they can focus on passing their tax bill before Christmas?

Not the priorities of America, but a tax bill, a deeply unpopular, appropriately so, tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, let me list what we need to do, what we ought to do, and what we should have done over the last 90 days. Let me just share with the American people who sent us here what the Republican majority has not gotten done in all of the months they have had complete control of the government:

Keep the government open and functioning by passing funding bills and sending them to the President for signature;

Reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program so that millions of our children will not lose healthcare insurance;

Provide funding for VA Choice to help care for our veterans, which must be done;

Reauthorize the flood insurance program, which is so critical to so many millions of Americans;

Extend expiring health programs, such as community health centers, on which so many others rely;

Reauthorize portions of the Intelligence Act to protect America's security, which will end before the end of the year.

Ninety days we have had to consider all of those items.

The American people also expect us to:

Provide the necessary resources to address the opioid addiction crisis, which they had 90 days to do that;

Reach an agreement on spending levels for critical priorities of the American people. We call it dealing with sequester, which is somewhat jargon, but we haven't done that;

Pass funding to keep government effectively serving our people. Ninety days to do that, and here we are;

Pass the Dream Act to provide certainty for those young people who were brought here as children and have grown up as Americans;

Take action to stabilize our health insurance markets. We haven't done that. We had 90 days;

Extend the expired Perkins Loan Program so college students, with the most need, can complete their degrees. We haven't done that in the last 90 days;

Reauthorize fire grants so that our domestic defenders and our first responders can have the resources they need for training, for personnel, and for equipment to keep our communities safe. We had 90 days to do that;

Prevent nearly 1 million people from losing access to Medicaid in Puerto Rico;

And I will end with: making sure that the people of Texas, the people of Florida, the people of Puerto Rico, and the people of the Virgin Islands have resources to rebuild and restore their communities devastated by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

All of this we need to do by December 31.

What do we focus on?

A tax bill.

When will that tax bill take effect for taxes in 2018? When will you pay those? By April 15, 2019.

Yet that is what we spend all of our time on. That is what we have spent all of our time on, not the priorities that I have just read, but a tax bill that will hurt America, hurt its financial status, hurt its middle-income workers, and, most of all, hurt the children who will pay back the money we will borrow to give the wealthiest in America a tax cut, those people making over \$900,000 a year. That crowd will get 62 percent of the resources, yet the Speaker says that we need to help struggling Americans.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, there is not a person at any one of my town meetings who came up to me and was worried about the people making \$900,000 or more—not one. Maybe it has happened to you, Mr. Speaker, but it hasn't happened to me.

Why are we at this point?

Because we have a governing party that refuses to govern; because we have

a majority that has failed to do the business of the American people, even for something as fundamental as providing for the operations of government.

Mr. Speaker, we Democrats welcome the opportunity to sit down with our Republican colleagues and reach a compromise agreement to meet our responsibilities and address many of the pressing issues I have outlined earlier in this address.

My time is about up. Had we utilized the 90 days that we all voted—we on our side of the aisle, the Democrats voted—with our Republican friends, although 90 Republicans voted “no,” but we all voted “yes” to take 90 days to meet our responsibilities to the American people. It hasn’t been done. We have no confidence that giving 2 more weeks will make it happen.

Let’s get to work right now. Not on the tax bill. That could be passed at some point in time. I am against it. I will vote against it. I hope it fails. It is a bad bill. But let’s address these priorities. That is not what the intent of these 2 weeks are. It is to give 2 weeks so we can pass a bad tax bill that will hurt America, will hurt our children, and will hurt the middle class.

□ 1100

PEOPLE ARE PAYING ATTENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the House Democratic whip lay out the case for the American public, I was struck by how stark the choices are and how much we are looking at failure at home and abroad.

We are watching the reckless action of Trump with his declaration that we are going to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, further isolating America. We are alone in this instance. People who are in the Arab world, European allies, are deeply concerned that this will have a destabilizing effect.

We are watching the countdown here as we are kind of scrambling to keep government open, when, for heaven’s sake, these have been clear for months. Republicans occupy all the levels of power. Why can’t they simply act to be able to send clear signals so the appropriators can work and government operates.

We have watched the expiration of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, wildly popular with people across the political spectrum to be able to have this significant enhancement of health for children in this country, even more important because of the Republicans’ relentless assault on the Affordable Care Act and destabilizing insurance markets. Yet State after State, including my home State of Oregon, is facing the difficult task of sending out notices to families that they are no longer going to have access to this critical healthcare.

In the backdrop of all of this, we are watching a Republican tax program which would be the largest transfer of wealth in our Nation’s history paid for by mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren a trillion and a half extra debt. When you put in the fact that we will have to pay interest on that, \$2.3 trillion to be able to give some of the largest corporations and the wealthiest Americans even more tax benefit, and we are neglecting fundamental responsibilities.

\$2.3 trillion tax benefits for some who don’t need it, and we still don’t have an infrastructure plan, which the President promised a trillion dollars of infrastructure spending to rebuild and renew America.

Well, I will tell you, there would be bipartisan support for any reasonable plan going forward. In fact, we have people in the American transportation industry who are saying: Raise our taxes.

The fuel tax has been raised in over half the States, including a number of red Republican States. There is a deal to be had when AAA and the American Trucking Associations say: Let’s provide the leadership, make the investment, put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work in ways that will enhance the environment, improve the economy, and give people a sense of pride that we can actually come together and get something done.

It is waiting there. Yet we are spending \$2.3 trillion to largely benefit the top 1 percent and the largest corporations, and we are ignoring needs like that.

The Treasury, we are told, has been doing studies that will prove that this will just pay for itself, and the Secretary of the Treasury has been asked: Show us the studies. What is the research? Where do you pick this number out of the air that is rejected by virtually every independent economist as well as past experience?

We see nothing.

The tax bill is constantly in flux. That is one of the prices that we pay, because they never followed regular order, they didn’t attempt to work on a bipartisan basis. There were no hearings held on this bill. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I was shocked. This bill changed sometimes hour by hour. They still don’t know what they have passed. They are talking about changing corporate tax rates, they are talking about dealing with some of the deductions that have been taken away, like for State and local taxes. It is in a state of flux.

What we do know is what was passed in the House is wildly unpopular. How do you take a tax cut that is unpopular by 75 percent of the population? It is because people are starting to look at it, and the closer they look, the more they are going to find it distasteful.

I am hopeful that we will be able someday to come to our senses, work together on things that will actually make a difference for the American public rather than make things worse.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Steven E. Boes, Boys Town, Boys Town, Nebraska, offered the following prayer:

Today we remember the lives lost at Pearl Harbor and all the young men and women who serve today.

Lord God, in these troubled times of fires, floods, hurricanes, terror attacks, and mass shootings, help us to rely on Your strength to envision and build a stronger, more secure America.

Give us more visionaries like Father Edward Flanagan, who founded Boys Town on December 12, 100 years ago. Father Flanagan was an Irish immigrant who lived the American Dream and taught us all that even the most troubled child could grow up to be a useful citizen if given half the chance. He saw the best in the kids that others rejected as useless.

Help us, but especially each of our Representatives, to see the best in those who have different political or social views so that we can, together, build an America that enables and calls forth the best in its citizens.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.